

MOTION OF MR. FILNER TO
INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion of Mr. FILNER to instruct the conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003, and to reject the waiver of the Clean Water Act being considered currently in conference.

Mr. Speaker, the conferees on the Energy Conference are preparing to approve a permanent exemption from the Clean Water Act for all construction activities associated with oil and gas exploration and production. This is unprecedented and needs further review.

Polluted runoff from precipitation events is the greatest remaining impediment to the Nation meeting its stated goal of clean, fishable and swimmable waters. Yet, even as the Environmental Protection Agency and the states are implementing reasonable measures to reduce such pollution, the Energy Bill conferees are preparing to approve a permanent exemption for one particular industry.

This exemption is also quite unnecessary. EPA, after much pressure from the oil and gas industry, decided to grant the oil and gas industry a two-year moratorium from the new rule that became effective this past March. However, not content with having EPA take another look at the issue, the industry now seeks a permanent exemption. The exemption applies regardless of the size of the construction site, regardless of the water quality impacts, and regardless of the wishes of an affected state.

Mr. Speaker, blanket exemptions from the Clean Water Act should bear the highest burden of proof before this House ever grants its approval. This never happened.

This provision was a stealth addition to the energy bill when it was considered at the Commerce Committee. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was never given the opportunity to consider the provision. When the bill was on the House Floor, I joined with Ranking-Member OBERSTAR and Mr. MARKEY to strike the provision through amendment, but we were denied the opportunity. The entire process has been disappointing.

If the conferees approve the Clean Water Act exemption it will harm human health and the environment; it does not belong in the Energy bill; and I strongly urge support of Mr. FILNER's motion to instruct the conferees.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALLEGUAS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service that Calleguas Municipal Water District has provided to a vast majority of my constituents in Ventura County, California, for the past 50 years.

Calleguas' mission "is to provide its service area with a reliable and adequate supply of

quality supplemental water through the acquisition and distribution of both regional and locally developed water in an environmentally and economically responsible manner." It has been doing so since voters created the district in 1953.

As the county grew, so did Calleguas. The population of the district's service area boomed from 138,000 in 1964 to an estimated 520,000 in 1996, and annual deliveries increased from 9,000 acre feet to in excess of 95,000 acre feet over the same period.

In 1960, Calleguas joined with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to import water from the State Water Project. It supplies all or some of the water to about 75 percent of Ventura County's population, including residences and businesses in the cities of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme, through 20 local agencies and private customers.

This is a challenge under the best of conditions. But with a severe drought lingering over the area for 10 years and earthquakes wreaking havoc on infrastructure, it has been a gargantuan task.

Calleguas has risen to the challenge. It is in the process of developing a storage capacity of up to 300,000 acre-feet of potable water in the Lower Aquifer System of the Las Posas Groundwater Basin. This is in addition to the 12 reservoirs and 10,000 acre-feet lake it already maintains and operates.

It is reclaiming 14,000 acre feet per year of highly treated wastewater effluent from the Conejo Creek for agricultural irrigation, one of its many programs to treat, reuse, store, and conserve water.

At the same time, Calleguas has proven to be an exceptional environmental steward. It has assumed a leadership role in the development of the Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan, a public-private alliance formed to develop an integrated strategy for the protection and enhancement of the watershed and its resources. Mr. Speaker, Congress is a partner in this effort, as well.

Water is the lifeblood of any community. Calleguas has done an exceptional job of protecting this precious resource and enhancing its delivery, treatment, and storage.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Calleguas Municipal Water District for 50 years of outstanding service, and thank Calleguas for its efforts to provide a stable water supply for the residents and businesses of Ventura County, California.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE JORGENSEN,
DIRECTOR, RIVERSIDE NATIONAL
CEMETERY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live. Steve Jorgensen is one of these individuals.

Steve will be retiring as Director of the Riverside National Cemetery this year and his dedication and contributions will be missed.

Steve is a native of Oregon where he joined the United States Army and served honorably for three years. In 1976, he graduated from Mount Hood College and later attended College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas.

Steve joined the National Cemetery System in June 1973, while still a student, as a cemetery caretaker at Willamette National Cemetery located in Portland, Oregon. In January of 1977, he was elected as a cemetery director trainee and remained at Willamette for the year long program. After completion of the program, he was named Director at Eagle Point, Oregon National Cemetery and remained there for a year and a half. He served as Director of the Fort Smith, Arkansas National Cemetery; Director of the San Francisco, California National Cemetery; Assistant Director of the Willamette National Cemetery; and Director of the Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

Steve was appointed to Director of Riverside National Cemetery in October 1991 and has been responsible for all burial and maintenance operations at the cemetery. Riverside National Cemetery is one of our nation's largest cemeteries and is the most active. The 921-acre facility has 288 developed acres, performs 8,000 burials yearly, and has over 145,000 gravesites to maintain. The facility is revered for its high standards of maintenance and efficiency. Under Steve's excellent leadership the facility has achieved the highest awards possible within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award. The cemetery received this prestigious award in 1996, 2002 and 2003.

Steve's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside California. His unwavering commitment to maintaining the dignity of the Riverside National Cemetery is a source of pride to his community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members, veterans and spouses of veterans are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING THE WORK OF UPPER
CUMBERLAND CARDIOLOGY CON-
SULTANTS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work being done at Upper Cumberland Cardiology Consultants. The Cookeville, Tennessee, medical office has been accredited a "Cardiovascular Center of Excellence" by the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control, one of only four such centers in the state.

Through this association, the cardiology group will have access to an expansive network of cardiovascular knowledge and resources across the Southeast. Upper Cumberland Cardiology Consultants, a group of six local physicians, can use those resources to tailor a patient's treatment regimen depending on other successes and experiences.